IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) An interactive object identification system comprising:

interactive user interface means for manually inputting at least one specified variable related to a first object into at least one input field of a plurality of input fields, wherein at least one of said plurality of input fields in the interactive user interface means includes requests at least one specified variable as an identification of an intended use of said object, said specified variable being known or physically observed based upon a visual inspection of the object by a user of the system;

database means for identifying a master object through comparison of known values in response to against the specified variable; and

a display rack for holding a physical set of master objects and an indicator for distinguishing the identified master object from the physical set of master objects.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Previously Amended)   The system of claim 1, further comprising: tracking means for recording and monitoring variables related to utilization of the system.

4.   (Original)   The system of claim 3, wherein the variables recorded and monitored by the tracking include information related to inventory levels for at least one item selected from the group consisting of: the identified master object and at least a portion of the set of other objects.

5.   (Original)   The system of claim 1, further comprising means for selectively updating elements of the system utilizing a computerized network.

6.   (Original)   The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of user interface means connected to the database means via a computerized network.

7.   (Original)   The system of claim 3, further comprising means for selectively updating elements of the system utilizing a computerized network.

8.   (Original)   The system of claim 7, further comprising a plurality of user interface means connected to the database means via the computerized network.

9.   (Original)   The system of claim 8, wherein the tracking means transmits the variables related to utilization of the system over the computerized network.

10.   (Original)   The system of claim 9, further comprising user help means for providing the user with assistance in operating the system.

11.   (Original)   The system of claim 10, further comprising verification means for confirming that the identified master object physically provided to the user matches the information about the identified master object presented to the user.

12.   (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein the identified master object comprises a key blank.

13.   (Original)   The system of claim 1, wherein the identified master object comprises a key blank.

14.   (Original)   The system of claim 1, further comprising: tracking means for recording and monitoring variables related to utilization of the system.

15. (Original)   The system of claim 14, wherein the tracking means transmits the variables related to utilization of the system over a computerized network.

16. (Original)   The system of claim 1, further comprising verification means for confirming that the identified master object physically provided to the user matches the information about the identified master object presented to the user.

17. (Original)   The system of claim 16, wherein the verification means includes at least one item selected from the group consisting of: a machine vision system and a radio frequency identification system.

18. (Original)   The system of claim 1, further comprising user help means for providing the user with assistance in operating the system.

19. (Currently Amended) An interactive object identification system comprising:

a computer having: (i) a<u>n interactive</u> graphical user interface for manually inputting at least one specified variable related to a first object into at least one input field of a plurality of input fields, wherein at least one of said plurality of input fields <u>in the interactive graphical user interface includes</u> <s>requests</s> at least one specified variable as an identification of an intended use of said object, said specified variable being <u>known or</u> physically observed based upon a visual inspection of the object by a user of the system, and (ii) a database for identifying a master object through comparison of known values against the specified variable, <u>and in response</u> said computer producing an output signal indicative of the identity of the master object <u>to a display rack</u>; and

<s>a</s> <u>said</u> display rack for holding a physical set of master objects and an indicator for distinguishing the identified master object from the physical set of master objects <u>in response to</u>

the selection of the specified variable, which receives the output signal and presents information to the user about the identified master object.

20.   Cancelled.

21.   (Previously Amended)   A system according to claim 19, wherein said indicator comprises a series of lights wherein a single light indicative of the identified master object is selectively illuminated.

22.   (Previously Amended)   A system according to claim 21, wherein the indicator further comprises: (i) at least one shift register operatively associated with the series of lights and (ii) means for selectively adjusting the output signal to be compatible with the shift register.

23.   (Original)   A system according to claim 22, wherein the identified master object comprises a key blank.

24.   (Original)   A system according to claim 19, further comprising an automated means for restocking at least selected portions of the set of possible key blanks, said automated means for restocking operatively associated with the computer.

25.   (Original)   A system according to claim 19, further comprising a means for tracking inventory levels of the set of possible key blanks, said means for tracking operatively associated with the computer.

26.   (Original)   A system according to claim 19, further comprising a means for confirming that the identified master object physically provided to the user matches the information about the identified master object presented to the user, said means for confirming

operatively associated with the computer.

27.   (Original)   A system of claim 26, wherein the means for confirming includes at least one item selected from the group consisting of: a machine vision system and a radio frequency identification system.

28.   (Original)   A system according to claim 19, further comprising key replication means for creating a duplicate copy of the first object.

29.   (Original)   A system according to claim 19, wherein the identified master object comprises a key blank.

30.   (Original)   A system according to claim 19, further comprising a means for providing assistance regarding operation of the system to the user, said means for providing assistance operatively associated with the computer.

31.   (Original)   A system according to claim 19, further comprising a means for recording and selectively retrieving a historical log of information about the user or the operation of the system, said means for recording and selectively retrieving a historical log operatively associated with the computer.

32.   (Original)   A system according to claim 19, wherein the computer is selected from the group consisting of: a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a hand-held computing device and a miniaturized, embedded computer having an integrated and abbreviated alphanumeric display.

33.   (Original)   A system according to claim 19, wherein the system operates over a computerized network.

34.   (Original)   A system according to claim 33, wherein the database is selectively updated via the computerized network and wherein the computerized network is selected from the group consisting of: a local area network, a wide area network and the internet.